

WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE

10¢

No. 12
MAY



RED COMET

GALE ALLEN

OF THE SPACE PATROL

AURO—

LORD OF JUPITER

CAPT. NELSON COLE

CRASH PARKER

BUZZ CRANDALL—

"THE OUTLAW AMAZONS OF
SATURN'S 12TH MOON"

PLANET COMICS



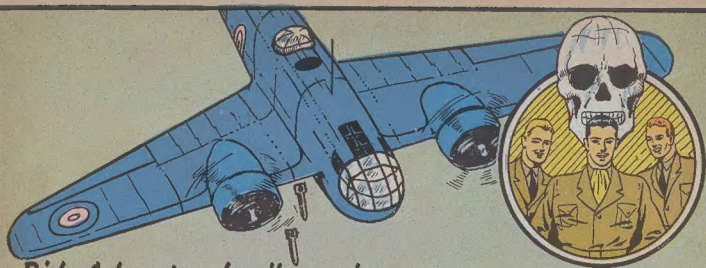
FLINT BAKER—

SPACE ADVENTURER

in

"THE TWO-FACED MONSTERS OF
PLANETOID ZERO"

ELARDO



Ride Adventure's silver wings with the Devil-may-care Skull Squad...

It's all for one and one for all with the Skull Squad, those Three Musketeers of the R.A.F., roaming the No-Man's skies. You'll always find their death's-head insigniaed Bristol Blenheim where other brave pilots dread to fly.

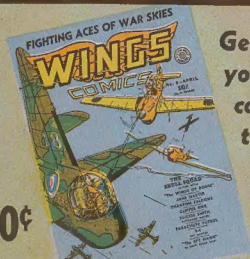
The current WINGS COMICS features the Skull Squad—Tommy, Kent and Sandy—in "Wings of Doom," a thrilling adventure into the heart of Messup-patrolled Czecho-Slovakia on a suicide mission to spike the secret weapon of the German high command!

Don't miss this great Skull Squad feature. Watch for it in the April WINGS COMICS

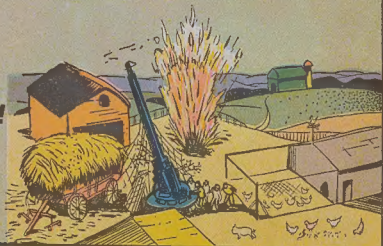
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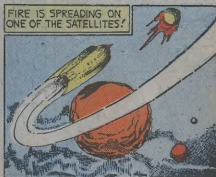
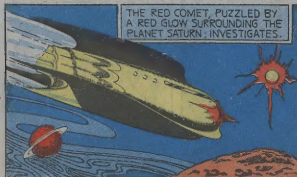
A
FICTION
HOUSE
MAGAZINE

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 13, JULY) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND MAY 10th.

THE RED COMET

BY
CY THATCHER



CIRCLING THE BLAZING GLOBE, HE FINDS IT HALF CONSUMED...

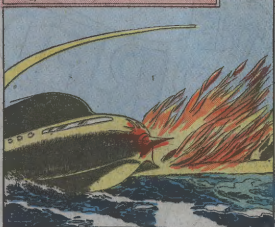


IF ANYONE'S LIVING THERE, HE'S IN A HOT SPOT.

I'VE NO TIME TO LOSE, I MUST DO SOMETHING QUICK.



CONNING HIS SPACE SHIP TO THE FRINGE OF THE FIRE, HE ALIGHTS ON A GREAT LAKE.



ASSUMING A GIGANTIC SIZE....



HE DIVERTS THE LAKE WATERS TOWARD THE BLAZING FORESTS.



THE FIRE IS QUENCHED.



THE RUINS COME ALIVE WITH PEOPLE, WHO SOON CATCH SIGHT OF HIM.



MEN, EH? NOW MAYBE I CAN FIND THE ANSWER FOR THIS.

THEY RUN IN FEAR.



TAKE IT EASY, BOYS.



HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

A HUGE HORNET STINGS HIM AS HE PURSUES THE FUGITIVES...



HE AMAZES THEM BY RETURNING TO NORMAL SIZE...



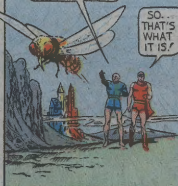
ONE OF THE LESS TIMID MEN VENTURES TO CONFRONT HIM.



THE LEADER TELLS HIM THAT GIANTS FIRED THEIR DOMAIN AND BORE SATURNIANS BY THE HANDFUL TO THE GIANT CITY...



THE GIANTS, ONCE HELD BACK BY THE HUGE HORNETS, NOW WEAR WELDED ARMOR PLATE.



THE RED COMET TRAILS THE GIANTS.



A WALL TOWERING TO THE SKY SURROUNDS THE GIANT'S CITY...



THE IMMENSE PORTAL SEEMS TO SNEER AT ITS CHALLENGER.



AT THE DOOR HE GROWS TO GIANT SIZE...

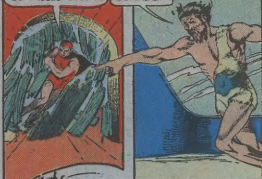


THEY MUST BE
BIG TO NEED
THIS FOR AN
ENTRANCE!

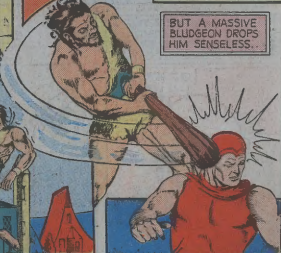
WITH ONE HEAVE HE SMASHES THE PORTAL,
AND THE SPLINTERING CRASH BRINGS GIANTS...

NOW TO TAKE A
LOOK AT THESE
SO-CALLED GIANTS!

W. WHA...
HO...
GUARDS!



BUT A MASSIVE
BLUDGEON DROPS
HIM SENSELESS...



WITH A SMASHING RIGHT, RED COMET
KNOCKS OUT ONE OF THE GUARDS...



HE IS CHAINED TO A WALL
AND LEFT ALONE...



THAT'LL HOLD
YOU, RED MAN!

THE GLEEFUL GIANTS WAIT FOR
HIM TO RECOVER HIS SENSES...



THIS STRANGER
WILL PROVIDE
FINE SPORT FOR
ALL OF US!

SUDDENLY A GUARD EXCLAIMS:



HE IS
GONE!

IMPOSSIBLE!

THE RED COMET HAS SHRUNK..



HE FINDS THEIR SMALL CELL AND INTRODUCES HIMSELF...



HE TURNS A SWITCH, SLIDING THE HEAVY IRON-BARRED DOOR OPEN..



AS THE SATURNIANS SURGE OUT, A ROAR TERRIFIES THEM....



A HUGE HAIRY HAND REACHES INTO THE CORRIDOR....



THE RED COMET STRIKES.....



WITH A BELLOW OF FURY THE GIANT DROPS THE SATURNIANS..



AND GROPE AFTER THE RED COMET, WHO DEFTLY DODGES HIM..



HE SKIPS INTO THE CELL AS THE GREAT HAND REACHES MENACINGLY AFTER HIM....



AND NOW!

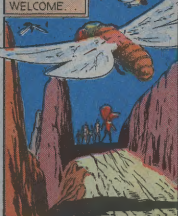
HE PULLS THE SWITCH AND THE DOOR CLAMPS DOWN ON THE GIANT'S WRIST...



SHAKING OFF HIS PURSUERS, HE GUIDES THE SATURNIANS TO FREEDOM...



THEY HURRY HOME, THEIR HORNETS WHEELING IN WELCOME...



THEIR RETURN TO THE SATURN CITY IS A SIGNAL FOR CELEBRATION...



IN THE MIST OF REJOICING, THE EARTH BEGINS TO TREMBLE... GIANTS COME FOR VENGEANCE!



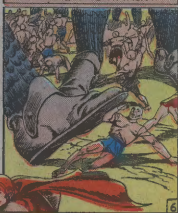
THE TERRIFIED SATURNIANS LOOSE THEIR HORNET IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO STEM THE TIDE OF DOOM.



THE FIGHT IS UNEQUAL AND TERRIFYING... UNABLE TO PIERCE THE GIANT'S ARMOR, THE SATURNIANS FLEE OR DIE UNDER MIGHTY FEET.



ONLY THE RED COMET REFUSES TO ADMIT DEFEAT. HE RALLIES THE HORNETS TO ATTACK...



THE GIANTS, ENCASED IN ARMOR, SHRUG OFF EVERY ATTACK....



IT'S NO USE
WE MUST
SURRENDER!

THE RED COMET, IN HIS SPACE SHIP, LEADS AN AERIAL CHARGE.



WILL THOSE
BABIES BE
IN FOR A
SURPRISE?

THE GIANTS PAUSE, PUZZLED BY THE RED COMET'S INTENT....



THE RAY GUN BURNS VITAL SPOTS THROUGH THE GIANT'S ARMOR..



THEN THE HORNETS FOLLOW UP THE VICIOUS ATTACK BY STINGING THROUGH THE OPEN HOLES..



THE RED COMET CONTINUES TO POUR BURST AFTER BURST INTO THE GARGANTUAN HOARDE....



A DOSE OF
YOUR OWN
MEDICINE!
SEE HOW
YOU LIKE
IT!

FRANTICALLY THE GIANTS BREAK UNDER THE FURIOUS ASSAULT....



GIANTS FALL, STUNG TO DEATH. THE OTHERS FLEE IN PANIC AS THE SATURNIANS CHEER....



BRAVO! RED
COMET, OUR
DELIVERER!

YOU'RE WELCOME, SATURNIANS! THOSE GIANTS WILL NOT TROUBLE YOU AGAIN, SO FAREWELL!



THE RED COMET AGAIN BATTLES THE EVILS OF SPACE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PLANET COMICS!**

GALE ALLEN

By
Douglas McKee



CIRCLING OVER A LITTLE-KNOWN PART OF VENUS WHICH THEY INTEND TO EXPLORE, GALE AND JACK PREPARE TO COME IN FOR A LANDING...



HOW ABOUT THAT SPOT OVER THERE, JACK?

OKAY, DUCHESS! HERE WE GO!



THE PLANE COMES DOWN GENTLY ON A LEVEL PIECE OF GROUND. IN THE DISTANCE IS A GROVE OF PALM-LIKE TREES.



BUT AS GALE AND JACK APPROACH THEY SEE THAT THE FRONDS ARE WINE-RED IN COLOR!



UGH! THE THING MAKES ME SHIVER! I WONDER WHAT IT IS?

SUDDENLY THEY SEE A STRANGE PROCESSION WINDING TOWARD THE LARGEST OF THE TREES...



SCALY MONSTERS ARE DRAGGING SOME TERRIFIED PRISONERS TOWARD THE GROVE.



THE PALE GREEN-HAIRED PRISONERS STRUGGLE DESPERATELY AGAINST THEIR CAPTORS.



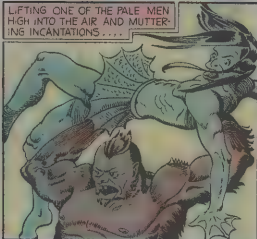
GALE AND JACK WATCH THE GRUESOME CEREMONY FROM A CLUMP OF TREES....

NICE PEOPLE I DON'T THINK!

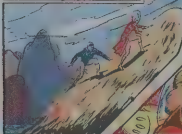
SOMEHOW I THINK WE WOULDN'T BE TOO WELCOME HERE NOW.



LIFTING ONE OF THE PALE MEN HIGH INTO THE AIR AND MUTTERING INCANTATIONS....



THEY SCRAMBLE UP A HIGH SLIPPERY ROCK ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP. THE CEREMONY BEHIND GROWS FRENZIED



LOOKING BACK, GALE SUDDENLY SHRIEKS.

OH!



A HORNE MONSTER THROWS HIM DIRECTLY INTO THE TREE



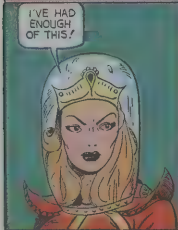
THE WINE-RED FRONDS CURL AROUND THE DOOMED MAN, AND DRAW HIM HUNGRILY INTO THEIR CENTER.



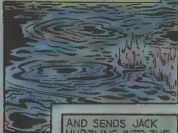
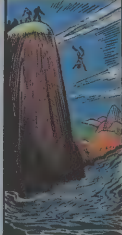
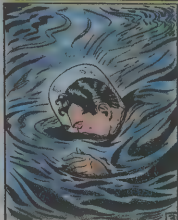
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL IS LIFTED TO BE HURLED AT THE SAME TREE..



GALE CAN STAND NO MORE...

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF THIS!IN THE CONFUSION THE GREEN-
HORNED PRISONERS ESCAPE....BUT A
MOMENT
LATER
WHEN
GALE
LOOKS
BACK.A GORILLA-LIKE HORNY-MAN GAINS THE
TOP OF THE ROCK...

WAH!

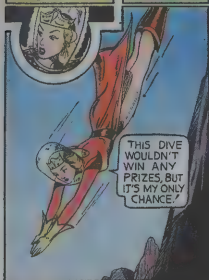
LOOK OUT,
YOU BIG
LUMMOX!WITH A FULL-THROATED YELL SHE
SPRINGS TO THE TOP OF THE ROCK
AND STARTS FIRING AT THEM WITH
HER RAY GUN...THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED!
ONLY HUGE, BLACK EDDIES
SWIRL IN THE WATER BELOW.AND SENDS JACK
HURLING INTO THE
SWAMP BELOW...THE HORNED MEN DROP
THE GIRL AND START FOR
GALE AND JACK.WELL, YOU'VE
STARTED SOME-
THING NOW!
HERE THEY
COME!OH, DEAR!
WELL, I'M NOT
A BIT SORRY!GALE AND JACK HAVE
THEIR HANDS FULL AS THE
HORNY MEN RUSH AT THEM.SCRAM, YOU
DREADFUL
TOAD-MEN!YOU SURE
KICK A MEAN
ONE, SISTER!THE MURKY SWAMP BEGINS TO
SUCK HIM UNDER AT ONCE!

GALE, LEFT ALONE,
LOOKS AT THE
SWAMP AND THEN
AT THE HORNY-MEN.

SHE PICKS
THE SWAMP,
AND DIVES INTO
A WHIRLPOOL.

SUDDENLY SHE REALIZES
THAT THE WHIRLPOOL FORMS
AN AIR SHAFT TO A
SUBTERRANEAN
CAVERN...

WHEN SHE AWAKENS, JACK IS
BENDING OVER HER ANXIOUSLY.



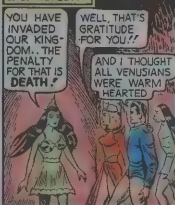
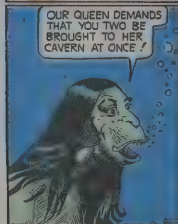
THE SWAMP PEOPLE CROWD AROUND
THEM IN CURIOSITY... GALE OBSERVES
SMALL APPENDAGES ON EITHER SIDE OF
THEIR NECKS...

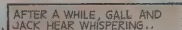
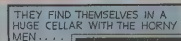
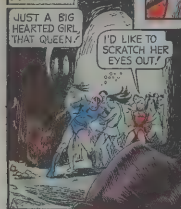
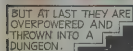
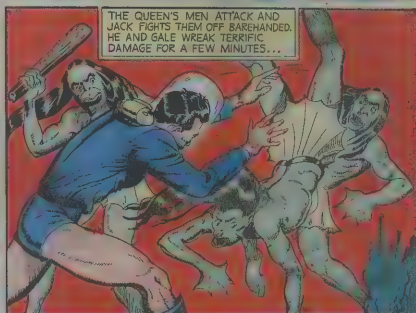
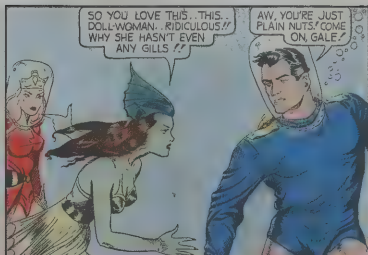


ONE OF THE AMPHIBIANS THEN
APPROACHES GALE AND JACK...

INSIDE THE CAVERN JACK AND
GALE ARE GREETED BY THE QUEEN
TO THEIR SURPRISE SHE IS
UNGRATEFUL...

THE GIRL DIES...
BUT YOU MAY
LIVE! I LIKE YOU!





TWO OF THE HORNY MEN ARE PLOTTING IN A DARK CORNER... ONLY A FEW DISCONNECTED WORDS CAN BE HEARD...



....PASSAGE... WAY...ESCAPE... YOU AND ME..

GALE AND JACK PRETEND TO SLEEP... BUT THROUGH NARROWED LIDS THEY SEE THE MEN PULL BACK A BOULDER...



AND CREEP INTO AN OPENING.



GALE AND JACK WAIT A FEW MOMENTS, THEN FOLLOW....



WONDER WHERE THIS LEADS TO ?

BUT THE CRUSTACEANS HAVE DETECTED GALE AND JACK'S APPROACH AND ATTACK THEM AT THE SURFACE....



THE DEATH TREE MUST EAT!

BUT SUDDENLY ONE OF THE HIDEOUS CREATURES CLUTCHES HIS THROAT CONVULSIVELY...



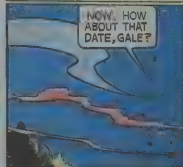
AND BOTH THE HORNY MEN GASP OUT THEIR LIVES AS THEIR GILLS CANNOT STAND THE STRAIN OF THE OPEN AIR...



FREEDOM MEANT DEATH FOR THEM!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WITH RELIEF GALE AND JACK GET INTO THEIR SPACE SHIP...



NOW, HOW ABOUT THAT DATE,GALE?

MORE EXCITING ADVENTURES WITH GALE ALLEN WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS

CRASH PARKER

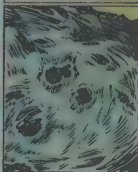
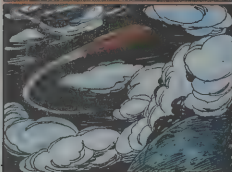
BY
S A SELWYN



CRASH PARKER FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A COSMIC STORM ABOVE SINISTER URACIUS, THE PLANET FORBIDDEN TO EARTH MEN...

SUDDENLY, HIS CONTROLS REFUSE TO RESPOND. THE GAS-DRAW ROCKET FALLS HELPLESSLY TOWARD THE VORTEX OF THE NEBULAR MAELSTROM

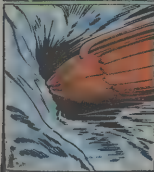
HE SEES BELOW A WEIRD LAND, HONEYCOMBED WITH GIGANTIC CAVERNS...



BY RUDDER ALONE, CRASH MANAGES TO STEER THE MAGNETIZED SHIP INTO AN ICE-RIMMED OPENING.

THE TERRIFIC SPEED SLACKENS AND THE ROCKET JAMS TIGHT IN THE NARROW EERIE SUBTERRANEAN CHASM

CRAWLING FROM HIS SHIP, CRASH SQUEEZES INTO A NARROW SILENT PASSAGE. FAR AHEAD, A FAINT LIGHT CUTS INTO THE FROZEN GLOOM...



COMING TO A CLEFT OF PURPLE
STONE, HE STARES AMAZED AT
A HULDE OF PEOPLE IN A STRANGE
ROOM



URANIANS/
AND SCARED
STIFF/WHAT..

MEN AND WOMEN, DAZED
WITH COLD AND FEAR STARE
FASCINATED AT A GREAT
CRUDE HOLE IN THE LOFTY
CEILING



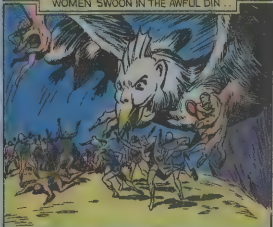
A SWISHING
SOUND DRAWS
A GROAN FROM
THE WATCHERS
AND FROM THE
SEMI-DARKNESS
ABOVE, CRASH
SEES...



HUGE SHAPES SWOOP DOWN!
GIGANTIC BIRDS, WITH HEAVY
WHITE FUR AND HUMAN-SHAPED
TALONS!



SCREAMING FURIOUSLY, THEY SNATCH THE SHUDDER-
ING URANIANS TO THEIR FURRY BREASTS... EACH
HAS A QUEER CRIMSON SPOT OVER THE HEART...
WOMEN SWOON IN THE AWFUL DIN...



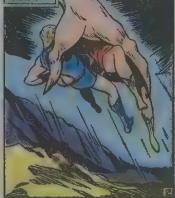
A FURRY HEAD
WITH HUMAN EYES
DARTS AT A
CRINGING GIRL
ON THE FLOOR



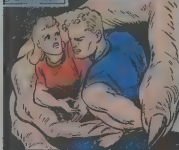
SUDDENLY, SIGHTING CRASH, SHE
FLEES TO HIM FOR PROTECTION.



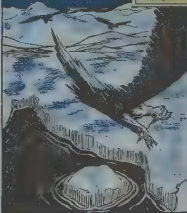
BUT THE MONSTER CLUTCHES
BOTH OF THEM AND, WITH A
SCREECH OF VICTORY, SAILS
AWAY



THE GIRL SAYS THAT HER NAME IS KOOLEN AND THAT SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A HIGH COUNCILOR. SHE EXPLAINS THAT EACH YEAR THESE BIRDS, BELIEVED TO BE IMMORTAL, COME FOR THEM. THEY BELIEVE THAT DREADFUL HARM WOULD COME TO THOSE WHO RESISTED.



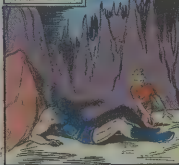
AFTER HOURS OF FLYING, THEY FIND THEMSELVES OVER GIGANTIC ICE FLOES.



WITH THE POUNDING OF MIGHTY WINGS, CRASH AND KOOLEN ARE CARRIED TO AN IMMENSE CAVERN.



THE BIRD DROPS THEM BOTH AND HOVERS ABOVE THEM. THE PURPOSE OF THE BIRDS HAS NOW BECOME CLEAR. THEY ARE VAMPIRIC, AND THE RED CIRCLE AROUND THE HEART IS THE POINT THROUGH WHICH THE FIENDISH TRANSFUSIONS TAKE PLACE.



THAT BIRD IS GOING TO USE OUR BLOOD FOR ITS OWN VEINS! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM SOMEWAY!



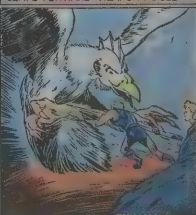
CRASH, WITH THE STUPENDOUS FORCE OF HIS POWERFUL BODY BREAKS OFF A SIALACITE.



GET BACK AGAINST THAT WALL. I'LL TRY TO HOLD OFF THESE OVERGROWN FUR COATS WITH THIS ICICLE!



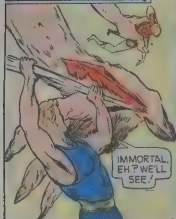
SUDDENLY, THE BIRD'S "HANDS" REACH OUT FOR THE TWO. CRASH LEAPS FORWARD WEAPON POISED.



ONE OF THE GHASTLY "HANDS" WRAP AROUND THE SHIVERING FORM OF KOOLEN. SHE STRUGGLES IN ITS FRIGID GRASP, BUT IN VAIN.



CRASH CUTS A DEEP GASH
IN THE REACHING TALON...



SCREAMING HORRIBLY, THE
MONSTER DROPS KOOLEN,
AND WHEELS TO FLY AWAY.



BUT FLIES ONLY A LITTLE WAY
AND DIES FROM THE LOSS OF
BLOOD TO KOOLEN'S AMAZEMENT.



WITH THE PANICKY DEVIL-FLOCK
ROUTED BY THE SMELL OF THEIR
BLOOD, CRASH GRINS AS THE
URANIANS, TIMID AND WONDER-
ING, RUSH TO HAIL THEIR
DELIVERER...



BUT A NEW MENACE APPEARS!



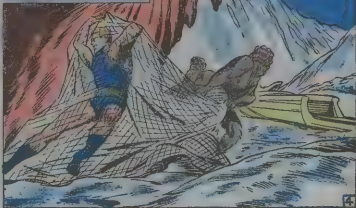
THE POLAR PEOPLE, ENRAGED BY
THE ROUT OF THEIR BIRDS, INFEST
THE CAVE TO CLAIM THE STILL-
LIVING URANIANS.



CRASH FIGHTS THE CRUEL-EYED
HAIRY ONES AS THEY SEIZE
SLAVES FOR THEIR BIRD-CAVES.



A HEAVY NET TRAPS HIM,
AND HAIRY MEN DRAG HIM
HELPLESS TO A LONG SLED.



BRUTALLY, THE POLAR MEN LASH THEIR CAPTIVES, HURLING KOOLEN AND THE STRUGGLING CRASH INTO THE LAST SLED.



ACROSS THE DESOLATE SNOWS, THE PROCESSION BEARS THE CAPTIVES TO A DREADFUL FATE AMONG THE POLAR HORRORS



GET SET, SUBTERRIM ABOUT DUE TO BUST LOOSE!



AS HIS HANDS, WARMED UNDER THE FURY, REACH HIS KNIFE.



THE GUIDE FALLS WITHOUT A SOUND.



SWIFTLY SEIZING THE CONTROL, CRASH RACES FULL SPEED TO REACH THE FOREST BEFORE AN ALARM CAN BE RAISED.....A LONG DANGEROUS FLIGHT....



IF WE CAN MAKE THE FOREST, WE'RE SAFE.

AND, AT LAST, KOOLEN'S SUBTERRANEAN LAND..



THE URANIAN GUARD, AMAZED AT THE SIGHT OF A STRANGER, BUT RESOLUTE, CHALLENGES CRASH!

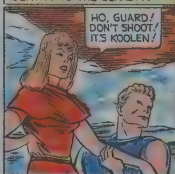


HALT! WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU WISH TO ENTER HERE?

FEARFUL, SUSPICIOUS AND OPPRESSED BY THE DREADFUL EVENTS OF TRIBUTE DAY, THE GUARD PREPARES TO KILL...



KOOLEN, SEEING CRASH IN DEADLY DANGER, CONQUERS HER FATIGUE AND RUSHES UP REVEALING HER IDENTITY TO THE GUARD...

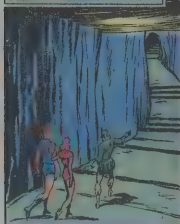


HO, GUARD! DON'T SHOOT! IT'S KOOLEN!

WHAT! NOT DEAD? BUT... ALL URANIA MOURNS YOU LOST!



JOYFUL GUARDS HURRY THEM DOWN A CORRIDOR TO MEET...

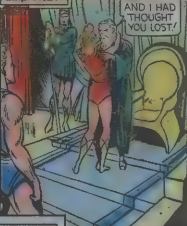


THE OLD CHIEF COUNCILLOR OVERCOME WITH SUDDEN JOY,



MY CHILD!

CHEERS ROCK THE GREAT HALL AS HE CLASPS HIS DAUGHTER IN FOND EMBRACE.



AND I HAD THOUGHT YOU LOST!

CRASH TELLS HIM THE BIRDS OF DOOM CAN BE KILLED AND THE POLAR PEOPLE DEFEATED....



AH! WHAT GLAD NEWS!

TO A HAPPY PEOPLE, THE COUNCILLOR PROCLAIMS AN END TO THE TRIBUTE AND FREELY PARDONS THE EARTHMAN.



NEXT MONTH, CRASH PARKER WILL ONCE AGAIN BE INVOLVED IN A CRASHING ADVENTURE.....

SPURT HAMMOND

By Doc Tully

FAR UNDERGROUND, TO ESCAPE THE TERRIFIC HEAT OF THEIR PLANET'S SURFACE, THE MERCURIANS LIVE IN SPACIOUS CAVERNS, BUT THE CHEMICAL SYSTEM IS FAILING, AND THEY ARE IN DISTRESS..

THEIR LEADER TELLS SPURT HAMMOND THAT THOUGH THEY APPEALED TO THE EARTH'S GREATEST SCIENTIST, THE EXPECTED RELIEF SHIP HAS NOT BEEN SIGHTED..

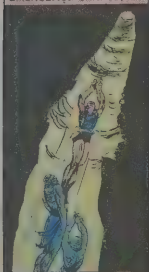


SUDDENLY ALL SUNSHINE IS CHOKED OFF FROM THE LIFE-GIVING PLANTS!



THE PIPES ARE CLOGGED! I'LL GO TO THE SURFACE AND LOOK FOR THE TROUBLE!

WITH A SMALL PARTY OF VOLUNTEERS, SPURT STRUGGLES UP THE OLD EMERGENCY SHAFT...



ON THE FIERY SURFACE, THEY CANNOT FIND THE CAUSE OF THE CLOGGING. DEJECTED THEY PREPARE TO RETURN...



THE OUTCASTS, WE BANISHED THEM, NOW THEY SEEK TO DRIVE US FROM OUR HOMES!



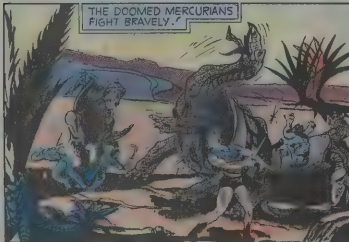
WAIT! LOOK WHAT'S COMING!



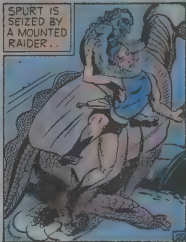
FROM THE HILLS, A FIERCE HORDE, MOUNTED ON TOWERING ARMORED BEASTS, CHARGES AT THEM...



THE DOOMED MERCURIANS FIGHT BRAVELY.



SPURT IS SEIZED BY A MOUNTED RAIDER...



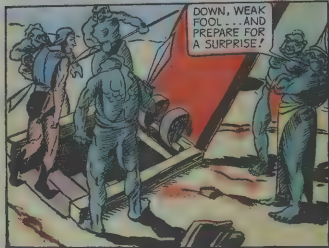
THE RAIDER TAKES SPURT TO A CRUDE STRONGHOLD BESIDE A ROCKY CLIFF...



THEY DRAG THE EARTHMAN TO A STAIRWAY CUT INTO THE ROCK.



DOWN, WEAK FOOL... AND PREPARE FOR A SURPRISE!



DOCTOR JON! AND LISA!



WRITHING IN THE FIERY SUN-RAYS ARE THE LOST RESCUERS, SPURT'S OLD FRIENDS, DR. JON AND HIS DAUGHTER, LISA.

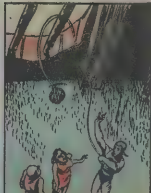
CUNNINGLY, SPURT WINS THE LEADER'S CONFIDENCE.

YOU'LL NEVER SWEAT THE FOOD FORMULA OUT OF THE DOC. LET ME TRY ALONE.

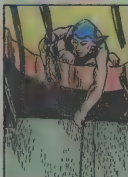
TRY THEN IF YOU FAIL, THEY DIE?.



WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST. THAT FELLOW THINKS I'M GETTING YOU TO TALK, BUT HE WON'T WAIT LONG.



USING THE ROPE THAT HAD BOUND THE TWO, SPURT SILENTLY TOSSES IT OVER A HIGH BEAM...



HE PULLS THE GIRL UP FIRST.



BUT HER FOOT LOOSENS A CHIP OF STONE AND IT STRIKES THE FLOOR WITH A RESOUNDING....



ALARMED, THE PIRATES BURST IN. THEY HOWL WHEN THEY FIND SPURT AND THE GIRL GONE.



WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!



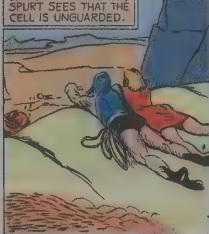
ON A SCALY STEED, THEY DASH AWAY ACROSS THE SUN-BAKED SURFACE..



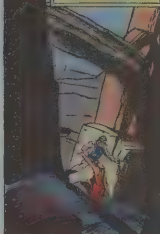
SAD MERCURIANS MEET THEM

THE PIRATES PLAN
TO ATTACK US!THE DESPAIRING PEOPLE, REALIZING THAT
THEIR ENEMIES CAN DRIVE THEM FROM
THE CAVERNS, APPEAL TO SPURTI'LL TACKLE THE
IRON HORSES!I MUST GO WITH
YOU I MUST
HELP MY
FATHER!

THEIR PERILOUS RIDE BEGINS.

BACK AT THE CASTLE,
SPURT SEES THAT THE
CELL IS UNGUARDED.

HE ENTERS...

NOW'S MY
CHANCE!SPURT DROPS TO
THE CELL FLOOR.

AND IS IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED.



SPURT'S DESPERATE BLOWS
FELL THE THREE GUARDS...



HE FREES THE OLD CHEMIST.

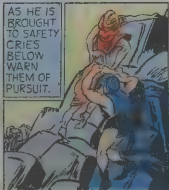


AND PULLS HIM
OUT OF THE
DUNGEON

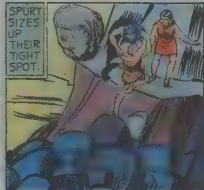
IN THE OPEN, THE
DOCTOR REVIVES



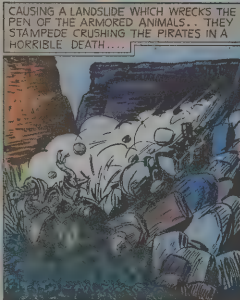
AS HE IS
BROUGHT TO SAFETY
CRIES BELOW
WARN THEM OF
PURSUIT.



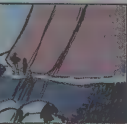
SPURT
SIZES
UP
THEIR
TIGHT
SPOT.



CAUSING A LANDSLIDE WHICH WRECKS THE
PEN OF THE ARMORED ANIMALS... THEY
STAMPEDE CRUSHING THE PIRATES IN A
HORRIBLE DEATH....



AND LETS GO A BOULDER...



SPURT HAMMOND
RETURNS AGAIN IN
THE NEXT ISSUE OF
PLANET COMICS/ 6

BUZZ CRANDALL

BY
WILLIAM HYER

of the
Space Patrol

TERROR RULES UED, SATURN'S
TWELFTH MOON. THE SPACE HAS
SAVED MARNA FROM THE KURMEN,
BUT HE HAS ANOTHER SCORE TO
SETTLE WITH THE MOON WORSHIPPERS..

ALONE SINCE THE MASSACRE
IN WHICH ALL THE MEN DIED, THE
GIRLS FACE A NEW HORROR....

GUIDE ME
TO MARNA,
QUICKLY!

THE KURMEN
CAPTURED DA
AND ALL HER BAND!
...ALL BUT ME! OH,
MARNA, PRAY..SAVE
THEM!

BUZZ PLANS TO ENTER THE
TOWN...SO MARNA'S OLD NURSE
BRINGS HIM WORD OF THE CAPTIVES.

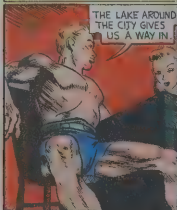
DA IS MY
CLOSEST
FRIEND! I
MUST HELP
HER SOON!
A FEARFUL
DANGER
THREATENS
ALL HER
BAND!

THE KURMEN
WORSHIP THE
MOON WITH
SACRIFICIAL
RITES...AND
THERE'LL BE
A MOON IN
TWO NIGHTS!
SO, DA....

I GET
IT!

MANY GUARDS
WATCH THEM
IN THE TOWER
OF STAR-MEN!

MARNA ASSURES BUZZ THAT THE OLD NURSE IS A LOYAL SERVITOR, AS ALL KURMEN ONCE WERE....



THE LAKE AROUND THE CITY GIVES US A WAY IN.



I'LL FIND THE GALS, IF I HAVE TO WRECK THE JOINT!

DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH! BUT WE MUST SAVE DA!

IN A CLOAK SUCH AS THE KURMEN WEAR, BUZZ ROWS UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, TO A WATER-DOOR IN THE WALL...



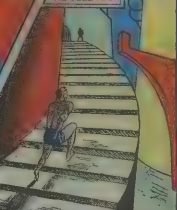
LEAVING THE NURSE AT THE GATE, BUZZ HURRIES TO THE GUARDED TOWER



A SWIFT LEAP FELLS A GIANT SENTINEL, WHO DIES UNDER HIS OWN UGLY WAR CLUB.



DASHING UP THE STAIRS, HE SEES...



A SECOND GUARD, WHOSE CHALLENGE IS SILENCED BY A GRIM, FATAL GRIP...



THE WAY IS CLEAR, BUZZ BURSTS OPEN A DOOR... TO FIND DA AND ALL HER BAND, WHO STARE IN AMAZEMENT AND FEAR



KEEP CALM, LADIES! LET'S YOU 'N' ME GO PLACES!

ESCAPE BY THE CROWDED STREETS IS IMPOSSIBLE. THEY FLEE ON THE ROOFS



SUDDENLY BUZZ HEARS GMINOUS SOUNDS... KURMEN ARE COMING IN WILD PURSUIT..



TURNING BRAVELY ON THEIR FORMER CAPTORS, THE TALL WARRIOR MAIDENS STRIKE HARD!



URGING THEM ON, BUZZ, AS REAR GUARD, HARRIES THE FLANKING PURSUERS...



IF THE LUCK RUNS RIGHT WE'LL MAKE THAT WALL AND AWAY WE'LL GO!

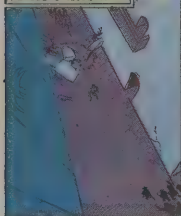
THEN FATE STEPS IN! DA, IN SEEKING A FOOTHOLD, DISLODGES A STONE SLAB THAT PINS HER



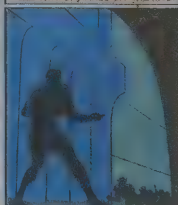
LET HER UP AND LET'S GO! THE KURMEN ARE CLOSE!



BEFORE THEY CAN MOVE, THE PURSUERS CLOSE IN...



SO BUZZ, ORDERING THE GIRLS TO FLEE WITH DA, TAKES ON THE MOB.



MANY KURMEN DIE UNDER HIS SAVAGE BLOWS, BUT, AT LAST, THEIR SUPERIOR NUMBERS OVERWHELM HIM..



THE KURMEN, INFURIATED BY THE ESCAPE OF THEIR PRIZED AMAZON CAPTIVES, DRAG BUZZ TO THE CHIEF



YOU DIE SOON, AS SACRIFICE TO OUR GOD!

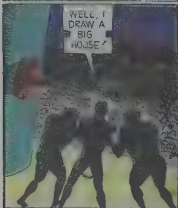


THE NIGHT OF SACRIFICE ARRIVES. IN FRONT OF A TALL MONOLITH, THE HAIRY KURMEN GATHER TO WAIT FOR THE GREAT SPIRIT...



TO THIS AWED ASSEMBLY, THE GUARDS DRAG BUZZ, HIS WRISTS IN SHACKLES

THEIR GOD APPEARS... A BRILLIANT THREE-SIDED MOON! THE HAIRY MEN HOWL IN FESTIVE WORSHIP, AND WAIT TO SEE BUZZ HURLED UPON THE MOON-DISK...



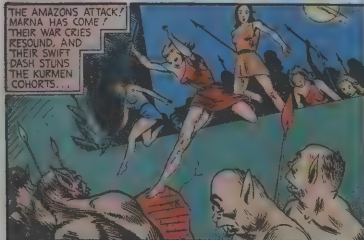
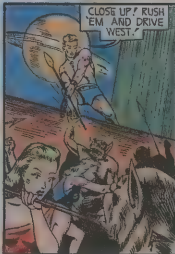
SUDDENLY, SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY, HE SEES ARMED AMAZONS...

BRAINING A GUARD WITH HIS CHAINS, HE DIVERTS THE CROWD'S ATTENTION FROM THE DARING MAIDS...

AS THE CHEATED KURMEN HOWL IN FURY, BUZZ LEAPS TO A NEARBY TERRACE...



THE CHEATED MOON-MEN GRAB ARMS

..AND TWO SCALE THE HIGH TERRACE.
ONLY TO MEET A MAN SPURRED BY
HOPE.COME ON,
FIRST UP,
FIRST
SERVED!HE FLINGS ONE OFF THE PARAPET.
AND THEN, AS THE CROWD WATCHESTHE AMAZONS ATTACK!
MARNA HAS COME!
THEIR WAR CRIES
RESOUND, AND
THEIR SWIFT
DASH STUNS
THE KURMEN
COHORTS...BUT THE KURMEN RALLY, SWINGING
HIS SHACKLES, BUZZ CLEARS A WAY....AND LEAPS INTO THE MELEE TO
JOIN MARNA, BY NOW ENTIRELY
SURROUNDED...CLOSE UP! RUSH
'EM AND DRIVE
WEST!STRIKING LIKE LIGHTNING, THEY
BREAK THROUGH AND REACH THE
WATER GATE

THE RESOURCEFUL MARNA HAS BOATS WAITING AND THEY HURRIEDLY EMBARK



THERE THEY COME... AND WE'VE STILL GOT TO GO UNDER THE BRIDGE!

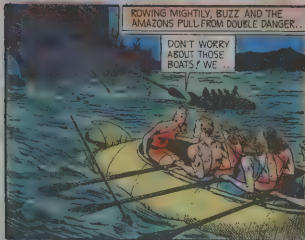


MANY HAIRY SPEARMEN RUSH TO THE BIG SPAN, OTHERS CROWD BOATS...

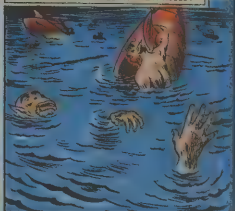


ROWING MIGHTILY, BUZZ AND THE AMAZONS PULL FROM DOUBLE DANGER...

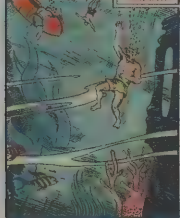
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE BOATS! WE...



AT THAT MOMENT BUZZ GETS THE IDEA, MARNA'S SMART BAND CUT HOLES IN THEIR HULLS!



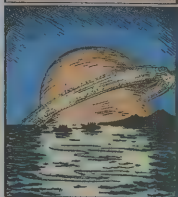
DOWN TO FEED THE FISH GO THE HAIRY PURSUERS, WHILE BUZZ AND MARNA...



LOVELY! IT WAS A MOON OF DEATH... UNTIL YOU CAME TO US, BUZZ!



BUZZ AND MARNA SAIL INTO THE NIGHT.



BUZZ CRANDALL RETURNS AGAIN TO THRILL YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

SLAVER OF THE SPACE LANES

by Bjorn Tagens.

Vance Kelland steered his space schooner easily among the yellow-green sky-islands of the planetoid belt. He lolled in the bucket-seat at the controls, but his keen eyes missed nothing. He circled one island completely then went on to the next.

"If this keeps up," grumbled Joe Gannon, his one-man crew, "we'll run out of supplies without even getting a smell of that reward money."

"We're in the right field," granted Vance. "The Space Patrol and the Spaceclines searching ships have covered every other likely spot. Besides, these planetoids are just the hideout a pirate would pick."

"You still think it's pirates?" scoffed Joe.

"What else? For months, cargo ships have been getting lost, and all within cruising range of this field. And then the liner. Maybe they were just plain lost. But don't forget there are some space flyers who'd rather steal than work."

Joe grinned uncomfortably. He was the sole survivor of a gang of claim jumpers who had attempted to work Vance Kelland's helium claim, in the Orions. Vance had coolly blasted the others out of existence, sparing Joe as a handy man. Joe had worked cheerfully for the tough explorer-pro prospector. But of late pickings had been lean. The fifty thousand reward for the lost liner would set them up.

They circled a craggy spheroid, spotted with broad belts of jungle. Then they saw a great crater where the lost liner gleamed in the sun.

Joe Gannon breathed noisily. "There she is! Whew-e-e! Fifty thousand in our mitts!"

"Take it easy," grunted Vance. "I don't like the look of things."

"Aw, what's wrong? There she is, take down. All we got to do—"

The schooner heeled under a terrific

impact. Vance moved fast but his craft was only half under control. Something had hit a directional vane. He cut speed, shot a glance at the wide expanse of level ground in the crater and picked a landing spot.

Joe Gannon swore. "Two black ships on our tail," he reported. "No, three! And ready to shoot again. Boss, your hunch was good."

"Three, huh?" murmured Vance. "Well, they've got the drop on us. So here we go into their parlor." He slid the schooner down toward the crater floor.

The three black ships came down one by one, guns still covering him as he landed. He cut off his power, reflecting grimly that he could never lift the schooner out of this great depression without long and extensive repairs.

Out of the black ships poured bearded men, heavily armed. Vance waved a hand in surrender. He emerged from the ground hatch, Joe following, and with hands on hips waited.

Armed pirates faced him, but Vance had eyes only for a huge individual who swaggered forward, twirling a ray-pistol in one huge hand. A spreading black beard that covered the massive chest hid all the chief pirate's face but the small coldly twinkling black eyes; yet Vance recognized the space corsair.

"Well, well!" he drawled. "So it's Blackie Ronn, the cheap killer who was run off the Earth."



The beard twisted and the black eyes glittered with fury. "Same old Kelland," the pirate snarled. "The tough guy! You'll come in handy here. I'll get plenty of work out of you before you get too tired."

"Tired?" drawled Vance. Calmly he sized up the pirate stronghold. A dozen thugs were grouped about Blackie Ronn. Farther away, in a cluster of palm huts, figures moved. And there was movement too on a trail that angled from the bed of the crater to the lip.

His lip curled contemptuously. He shook his head. "You never were worth a damn, Ronn. In a week I'll be running this place myself."

Joe Gannon laughed delightedly. Some of the pirates gaped. Ronn's eyes bugged wildly. "Take 'em away!" he roared. "Bring the two of 'em in the deep hole!"

Several outlaws jumped to obey. Prodding Vance and Joe with ray-pistols, they headed them across the flat rocky floor.

The little procession had to pass near the grounded spacecliner. Prisoners under guard lolled about the airlocks. Vance saw a squat cannon being trundled out.

The toilers moved feebly. One of the haggard men sighted Vance, and turned away from his work, deliberately defying the guards.

"Vance Kelland!" shrieked the scarecrow. Then he laughed harshly. "So they got you!" he muttered, accusingly. "The great Kelland walked right into the pirate trap!"

It was Carstairs, president of the mighty Spaceclines—a prisoner of the pirates! Vance stopped, ignoring the prodding ray-pistol.

"How's it feel to work, Carstairs?" he asked idly.

Carstairs glared. He was in rags, his hair matted with sweat and dirt. But his spirit was not broken. "Work?" he croaked. "I never dodged work. But this—this is slavery. See these men? Half of 'em will be buried within a

month. Worked to death."

Vance Kelland's lips tightened. But he said only, "Where's Ronn taking the guns?"

"Top of the crater," muttered Carstairs. "Guns all around the lip. He'll have a cross-fire that will keep anything out of this hole. It'll be a fort that all the Earth fleets won't be able to crack."

"Keep your shirt on," said Vance softly, and yielded to the prodding gun. At the crater wall the guards shoved them into a dark cleft in the lava.

Sudden transition from the sun-baked floor of the crater to the gloom of the cave blinded them both. They groped instinctively, and Vance muttered softly to Joe, "Watch your step. Ronn said a hole, remember? A deep hole."

"That's right," granted Joe. "Well, I don't like holes. I stay right here."

But the guards must have overheard his complaint. "Move on!" one yelled. "Get in there, or we'll blast you!"

The two prisoners inched forward at the threat, and the ground seemed to open at their feet. They twisted swiftly, clawing for hand-holds, but to no avail. "S the hole!" gasped Joe, his fear-laden voice rising above the rattle of rubble and dirt that accompanied their descent.

Vance and Joe plunged down, down. Slipping and sliding on an almost sheer incline, they braced themselves for an impact. They hit a rocky floor, and rolled in the dark.

Vance was up at once. In ten minutes he was chuckling.

"What's funny?" growled Joe.

"Soon as it's dark outside," said Vance, "we go upstairs and look around."

"You're nuts."

"Get up," ordered Vance. "We've got work to do."

For hours they labored. On the floor of the gloomy cavern lay broken slabs of lava. These Vance and Joe dragged to the face of the cliff, heaving until they staggered, they piled them one on another, with Vance carefully propping the larger slabs.

And when the dim light above began to fade, they had a staircase. It was clumsy and shaky, but it bore them as they climbed cautiously and at last lay flat on the floor of the crater, watching two guards at the entrance to a nearby gully.

They waited, their strength returning. Then they stole upon the guards with lava clubs, knocked them out, bound

and gagged them and took their ray pistols, and walked into the cave.

Carstairs and fifty other men stared incredulously. "How did you—"

"No time for that," snapped Vance. "You want to leave this hole, don't you? Then tell off some good men to follow us. When we get the drop on the pirates, it's their job to grab guns. Got it?"

"Got it, by Jupiter!" breathed Carstairs, and sprang up, listless no longer. All the prisoners stirred, exclaiming.

It was quiet, that rush. Vance and Joe burst into the first pirate hut and had the inmates stunned before they could raise an outcry. Farther along, a startled pirate yelled. He died at once as Joe's pistol flashed.

"Where's Ronn?" Vance snapped at an outlaw.

"L—lner," stammered the man.

"Ah!" cried Vance. "Come on, Joe. Mop up, Carstairs!"

He dashed toward the lner, where lights glowed. A burly figure appeared in the airlock.

It was Ronn. His hand rose swiftly. Vance and Joe leaped sideways to escape the deadly shot, and both cut loose with their own guns.

But Ronn moved fast too. He disappeared behind piles of stores. Then Vance heard a rocket motor warming up. "He's getting away!" he yelled. He sprinted, Joe at his heels.

The black pirate's ship was quivering under its power. Vance leaped into a second sleek craft, found the controls. "Make fast, Joe! We're on his tail!" The other ship left the ground with a lunge. Then he too was off.

And he grinned grimly. It was as he had expected. Neither ship could lift quickly over the lip. Ronn was circling inside the crater, climbing slowly. Vance thought of the prisoners below, and knew that the destruction of Ronn was their only hope. He gambled with a cool move that made Joe Gannon

He slammed his craft into the black ship of the fugitive pirate. With a screaming of scraping metal, the plunging ships caromed: Ronn's ship dived into the unyielding lava wall, exploded with a deafening roar and vanished in a sheet of flame.

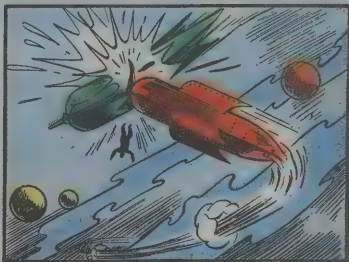
"You c-crazy fool!" wailed Joe. "We crash next—and how!"

Vance laughed. "Get set for a bump, Joe!" he yelled, swiftly testing the heavy belt that strapped him into his seat at the controls. Joe with fumbling fingers was doing the same. The ship, knocked off its flying course by the terrific impact of collision, was hurtling downward at a breath-taking angle.

But Vance had figured that angle. The slim craft struck hard, nose down, and the two adventurers were jerked, cruelly, their senses reeling. But after one wild bounce it righted, and slid.

Vance and Joe clung to their bucket seats as the crazily skidding ship, power shut off, came to a stop, and lurched into an upright position.

"Whew!" gasped Joe. "What next?" Vance pointed. "Nothing. That's all there is." The two sat, to get their breath, as across the rocky floor of the pirate fort came a triumphant Carstairs and his mates, herding the survivors of Blackbeard's crew.

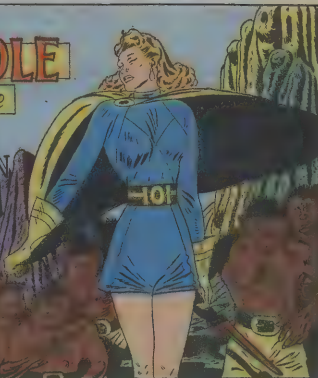


Captain NELSON COLE

of the Air Force

and
The Queen of the
RED DEG MEN

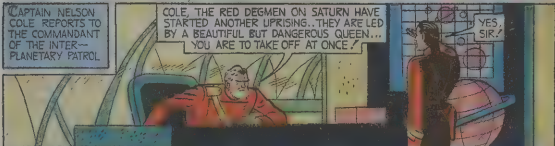
BY
AURELIUS



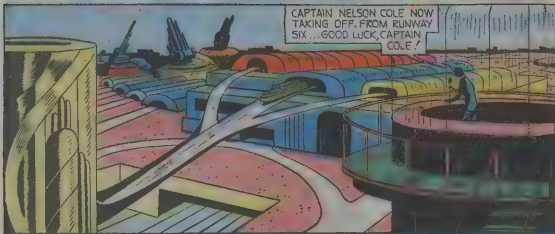
CAPTAIN NELSON COLE REPORTS TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE INTER-PLANETARY PATROL

COLE, THE RED DEG MEN ON SATURN HAVE STARTED ANOTHER UPRISING.. THEY ARE LED BY A BEAUTIFUL BUT DANGEROUS QUEEN... YOU ARE TO TAKE OFF AT ONCE!

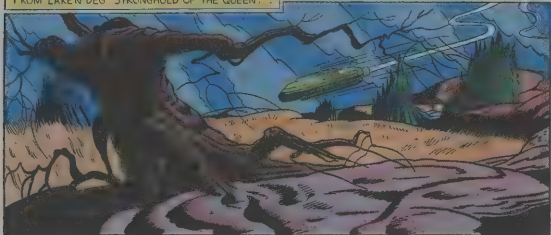
YES, SIR!



CAPTAIN NELSON COLE NOW TAKING OFF FROM RUNWAY SIX... GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN COLE!



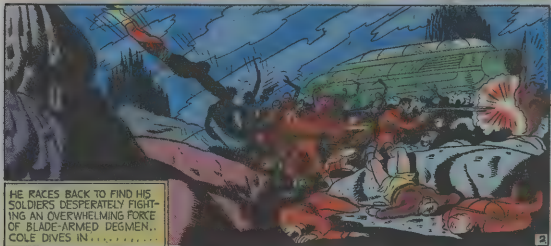
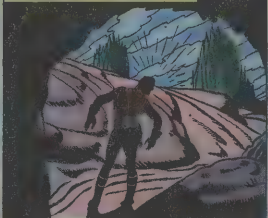
CAPTAIN COLE LANDS HIS SHIP AMID THE TALL YELLOW GRASS, AND STRANGE TREES SOME DISTANCE FROM LAKEN DEG STRONGHOLD OF THE QUEEN.



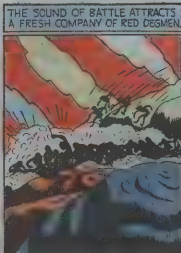
SPACE SERGEANT DOLD. TAKE COMMAND WHILE I RECONNOITRE LAKENDEG. DON'T SHOOT UNLESS ATTACKED... THEN BLAST 'EM DOWN.



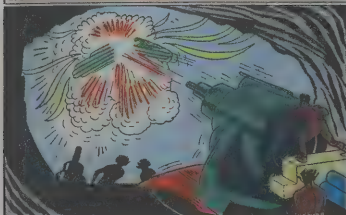
HARDLY DOES HE LEAVE THE SCOUT CRUISER WHEN HE HEARS THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE...



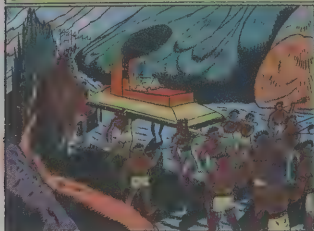
HE RACES BACK TO FIND HIS SOLDIERS DESPERATELY FIGHTING AN OVERWHELMING FORCE OF BLADE-ARMED DEGMEN.. COLE DIVES IN.....



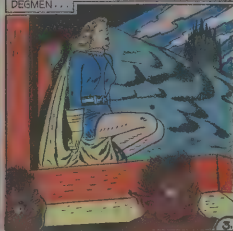
A BLAST FROM THE DEGMEIN'S ATOMIC RAY CANNON BLASTS THE S.O.A. CRAFT OUT OF THE SKY, EXPLODING CAPT COLE'S LAST HOPE.

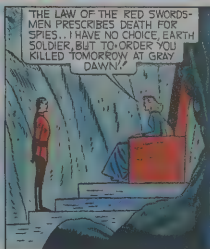
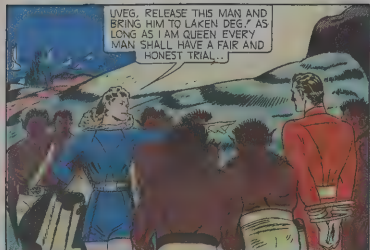


BUT AS THE DEGMEIN TURN TO KILL COLE WITH THEIR SWORD-LIKE CLAWS, THE SOUND OF TRUMPETS RINGS OUT..



AND A MARTIAL PROCESSION WINDS AMONG THE WEIRD CRAGS. THE QUEEN OF RED DEGMEIN...

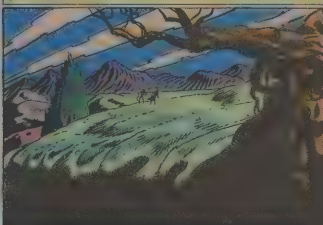




I HATE ALL EARTHMEN, MY FATHER WAS A GREAT EARTH SCIENTIST AND THE EARTH COUNCIL DROVE HIM INTO EXILE HERE ON SATURN!



BUT SHE TELLS CAPTAIN COLE THAT SHE CANNOT BEAR TO SEE UVEG KILL HIM AND SO SHE IS HELPING COLE TO ESCAPE . . .



TIE THE ROPE TO THIS TREE IT'S LONG ENOUGH TO LET YOU DOWN TO THE FLAT COUNTRY... HURRY, FOR UVEG'S MEN WILL SOON BE ON YOUR TRAIL.....



CAPT. COLE KNOTS THE ROPE SWIFTLY AND SWINGS DOWN THE SHEER SATURNIAN CLIFF...



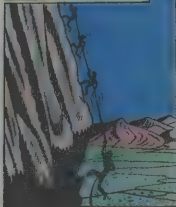
GOOD-BYE, OH QUEEN IF I EVER GET THE CHANCE TO SQUARE THIS DEBT, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!



BUT HARDLY HAS COLE SPOKEN WHEN FROM THE DEG AN ANGRY HORN SOUNDS...



QUICKLY A TRIO OF BLOOD-THIRSTY DEG MEN SWARM DOWN AFTER COLE...



THIS IS GETTING TO BE A MIGHTY ROUGH GAME. SOMEBODY'S GOING TO GET HURT!





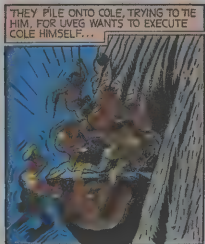
GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY FOR A SHOWDOWN!



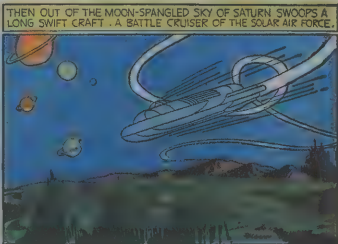
WELL, BOYS, YOU ASKED FOR IT. HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS STUNT?



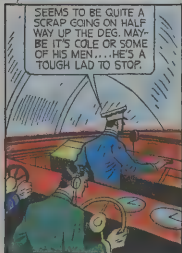
DESCENDING IN GREAT NUMBERS....



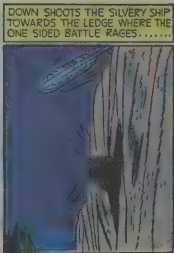
THEY PILE ONTO COLE, TRYING TO TIE HIM, FOR UVEG WANTS TO EXECUTE COLE HIMSELF...



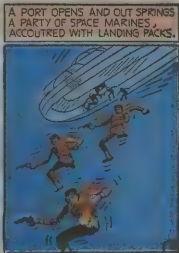
THEN OUT OF THE MOON-SPANGLED SKY OF SATURN SWOOPS A LONG SWIFT CRAFT. A BATTLE CRUISER OF THE SOLAR AIR FORCE.



SEEMS TO BE QUITE A SCRAP GOING ON HALF WAY UP THE DEG. MAYBE IT'S COLE OR SOME OF HIS MEN....HE'S A TOUGH LAD TO STOP.



DOWN SHOOTS THE SILVERY SHIP TOWARDS THE LEDGE WHERE THE ONE SIDED BATTLE RAGES.....



A PORT OPENS AND OUT SPRINGS A PARTY OF SPACE MARINES, ACCOUTRED WITH LANDING PACKS.

GRIMLY THEY DIVE TO THE ATTACK, EMPLOYING THEIR RAY GUNS WITH MURDEROUS EFFECT...



IN A FEW MOMENTS THE DEGMEN ARE SENT HURLING TO THEIR DOOM



GRASPING A SPACE MARINE'S LEG, COLE ASCENDS TO THE BATTLE CRUISER ABOVE...



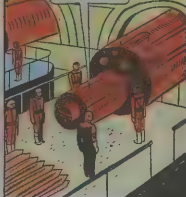
COLE IS ASSISTED INTO THE BATTLE CRUISER....



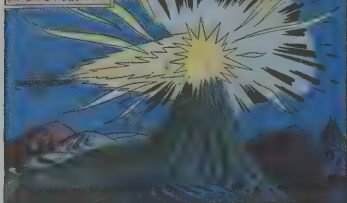
YOUR SHIP GOT OFF PART OF A MESSAGE BEFORE IT WAS SHOT DOWN, CAPTAIN COLE. WE BURN'T UP THE ETHER GETTING HERE!



MAN ALL BATTLE STATIONS! PREPARE TO BLAST LAKEN DEG OFF THE MAP!



CUTTING LOOSE WITH ITS HEAVY RAY GUNS, THE SPACE SHIP FIRES A DEVASTATING SHOT BROADSIDE AT LAKEN DEG....



THAT KNOCKED SOME OF THE FIGHT OUT OF THEM! NOW TO MOP UP... SERGEANT, PREPARE LANDING PARTIES!



THE INTREPID QUEEN
RALLIES HER SUBJECTS
AND THEY FIGHT BACK.



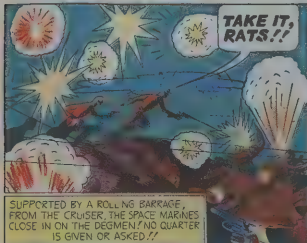
BUT THE CRUISER POURS A HAIL OF
LETHAL RAYS INTO THE DEGMEN.
THEY FLEE IN DISORDER...



COME ON, YOU DEVIL-
DOGS! DO YOU WANT
TO LIVE FOREVER?...
HERE'S WHERE WE
MAKE SOME "SCRAM-
BLED DEGS!"



**TAKE IT,
RATS!!**



SUPPORTED BY A ROLLING BARRAGE,
FROM THE CRUISER, THE SPACE MARINES
CLOSE IN ON THE DEGMEN! NO QUARTER
IS GIVEN OR ASKED!!

VICTORY!

AND I HOPE I NEVER
SEE ONE OF YOU
DEGS AGAIN AS
LONG AS I LIVE!



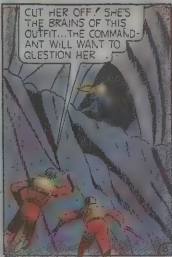
HEY, LOOK! THERE
GOES THE QUEEN!
WE CAN'T LET HER
ESCAPE!!



HER ARMY DISPERSED, THE
QUEEN OF THE DEGMEN CLIMBS
UP THE SHEER WALL OF THE DEG
IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE.



CUT HER OFF! SHE'S
THE BRAINS OF THIS
OUTFIT...THE COMMAND-
ANT WILL WANT TO
QUESTION HER.





BUT THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN DIVES INTO THE DEEP WATERS OF THE GROTTO! SHE WAVES FAREWELL



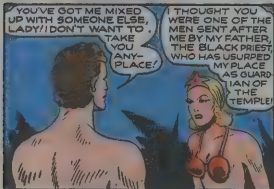
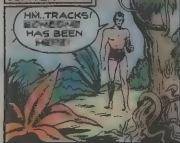
DON'T SHOOT!! SHE SAVED MY LIFE, BESIDES, THE RED DEGMEN OF SATURN ARE SMASHED FOREVER!!



CAPTAIN NELSON COLE WILL APPEAR AGAIN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!



AURO WANDERS IN THE FORESTS OF A REMOTE PART OF THE WILD UNEXPLORED PLANET, JUPITER...

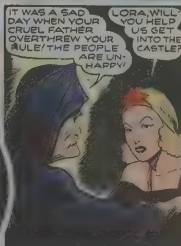




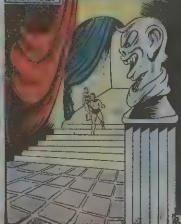
ROANE LEADS AURO TO A HUT AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST.



IN A FEW MOMENTS, AURO AND ROANE, CONCEALED UNDER A BUNDLE OF FAGOTS, ARE DRIVEN TOWARD THE PALACE



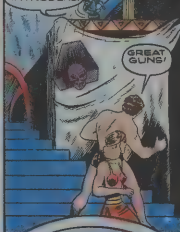
AURO AND ROANE TEAR DOWN THE STEPS OF THE FOREBODING PALACE.



BUT THEY ARE NOTICED BY ONE OF THE BLACK PRIEST'S GUARDS...



DIE, YOU INTRUDERS!



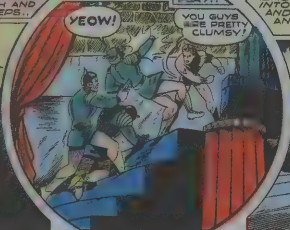
SWIFTLY AURO SWEEPS ROANE OUT OF THE PATH OF THE STATUE...



BUT THE OTHER GUARDS HEAR THE CRASH AND BOUND UP THE STEPS...



AND CRASH INTO A RAGING FURY...



AURO PLUNGES A KNIFE INTO A GUARD'S THROAT AND, LOSING HIS BALANCE, TUMBLES DOWN THE STEPS...



ANOTHER THUG RUSHES DOWN TO KILL AURO...



BUT ROANE PICKS UP PART OF THE BROKEN STATUE AND...



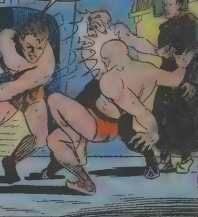
FREEDING DUANNE FROM HIS CELL, THE TRIO RACE UP THE STEP ONLY TO FACE...



ROANE AND DUANNE GASP IN FEAR AS AURO LASHES INTO THE BLACK PRIEST'S GUARDS...



BACK, YOU UGLY DOGS OF PLUTO!



AND NOW I'LL FINISH YOU OFF, MY FRIEND!

THINK SO? ERIF REAPPA!

LOOK OUT! IT'S A CURSE!



A SHEET OF FLAME SHOOTS UP BETWEEN AURO AND THE PRIEST.



HE'S GOT US STUMPED NOW! WE'LL GO BACK TO THE CELL AND WAIT OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE!



DESPERATE, THE BLACK PRIEST DECLARES HIMSELF SUPREME...

HEAR YE! TONIGHT THE BLACK PRIEST WILL BE SANCTIFIED! ROANE AND HER SUPPORTERS WILL BE CONSUMED BY FIRE! ANYONE ABSENT FROM THE CEREMONIES, SUFFERS THE PAIN OF DEATH!



WHEN ALL IS READY, THE BLACK PRIEST POURS POWDER INTO THE SACRIFICIAL VAT...



THAT NIGHT, THE PEOPLE SULKENLY FILE INTO THE TEMPLE...



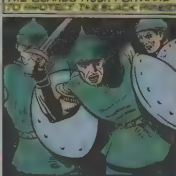
BRING FOREWORD ROANE AND HER TWO FRIENDS!



BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CARRY OUT THE ORDERS, AURO BREAKS FREE!



THE GUARDS RUSH FORWARD TO ARREST THE BLACK PRIEST



AURO SEIZES THE FRANTIC PRIEST AND RAISES HIM HIGH IN THE AIR.



THE PEOPLE, SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY, RUSH FORWARD AND OVERPOWER THE GUARDS.



AURO WHIRLS, FACING THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE...



AND FLINGS THE BLACK PRIEST INTO THE HUNGRY FLAMES.



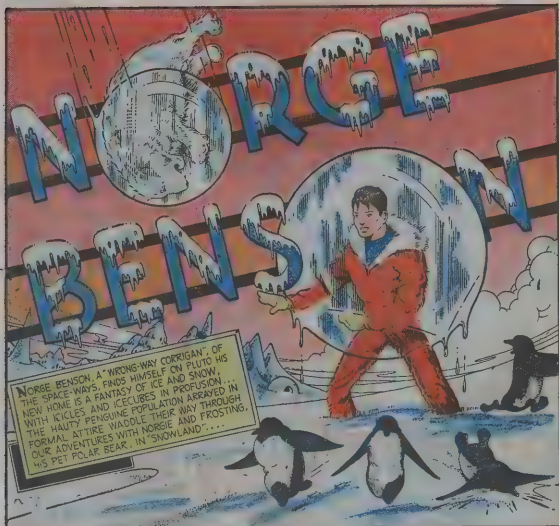
PEOPLE OF TEMPLE CITY, THE TYRANT'S BEEN DESTROYED! AURO, LORD OF JUPITER, ORDAIN ROANE PRIESTESS AND RULER! OBEY HER AND LIVE HAPPILY!



WE'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, AURO! FORGET IT! RULE WISELY AND I SHALL BE REWARDED.



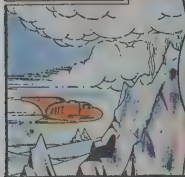
AURO LORD OF JUPITER... ENCOUNTERS NEW THRILLING ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PLANET COMICS**



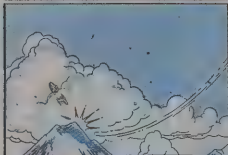
SILENT AND MOTIONLESS, THE GLEAMING ICE BERGS AND WIDE-SPREAD FLOES SEEM INNOCENT OF ANY THREAT TO THEIR STOUT LITTLE CRAFT...YET...

WHILE NORGE NEGLECTS HIS WATCH AHEAD...

... A SUDDEN CRASH OF COLLISION HURLS THE PARTNERS AGAINST THE PADDED COAMING OF THE COCKPIT, AND VISIBILITY IS BLOTTED OUT BY AN ENVELOPING WHITE FOG....



DIMLY THROUGH THE MIST, NORGE SEES A JAGGED PEAK FROM WHICH THEY HAVE BOUNCED... HE BLINKS IN AMAZEMENT, RECOGNIZING THE PINNACLE AS A DRY-ICE VOLCANO.



HELPLESS AND WEIGHTY, THE ROCKET PLUMMETS TOWARD PLUTO WHILE NORGE AND FROSTING GET SET FOR THEIR BIGGEST AND POSSIBLY LAST CRASH !!



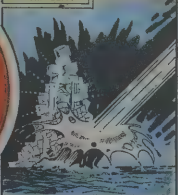
UPENDED AND WHIRLED, THE PAIR SEE SIGHTS... BUT SIGHTS NOT SO REASSURING. THERE SEEMS TO BE NOWHERE TO LAND BUT THE ICE PEAKS....



STEAM SPUTING FROM THE CRATER, CONGEALS ON THE ROCKET. NORGE AND FROSTING FIND THAT THEY ARE INSIDE A FLYING BALL OF ICE, HURTLING HELPLESSLY. PEERING THROUGH THE ICE-COVERED PANELS, THEY SEE A LAND OF ODD PEAKS AND VIOLET VALLEYS.



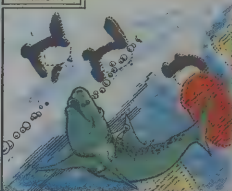
FOR AFTER THEY BUMP DOWN A WHITE SLOPE, THEY PLUNGE WITH A FEARFUL SPLASH INTO AN ICE-FRINGED SEA.



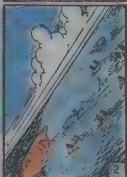
AS THE SHIP, WATERTIGHT IN ITS COVERING OF ICE, POPS TO THE SURFACE, STAGNANT LITTLE PLUTO PEOPLE RUN FROM THEIR NEAT HOUSES...



THE DIGNIFIED LITTLE FELLOWS, WADDLING ON THE WATER'S EDGE, TALK IT OVER, THEN DRAW RAFTS INTO VIEW. THEY IMPERIOUSLY SUMMON FROM THE CHILLY DEPTHS A QUEER SHARK-LIKE SEA BEAST WEARING A SORT OF HARNESS....



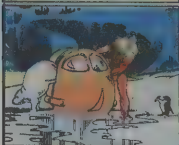
HITCHING UP THE RAFTS TO "SHARKY" THE COMMITTEE OF WELCOME PARADES, SLOW AND SEDATE, TOWARD THE TWO WATCHING IN THE ROCKET-PRISON....



SNAPPY AND SCIENTIFIC, THEY SHIFT THE HARNESS TO THE FLOATING ROCKET... SHARKY GETS NEW ORDERS AND PULLS THE VISITING CRAFT TO SHORE AND UP TO A LEVEL ICE-SHELF....



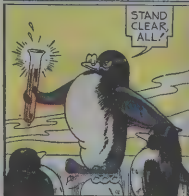
NORGE, AND A RELIEVED FROSTING CLAMBER OUT OF THE DEFROSTED SHIP INTO THE PUDDLE MADE BY THE MELTED ICE. NORGE IS IN A HURRY TO THANK THEIR RESCUER, WHO SQUAWKS A GREETING...



WOW! WHAT WAS IN THAT CONCOCTION? AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, ANYHOW?... HE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR...



ONE OF THE PLUTOCRATS PRODUCES A VIAL FROM A HIP POCKET, EXTRACTS THE CORK, AND MOVES TO THE SHIP... NORGE AND FROSTING WATCH WITH MINGLED HOPE AND FEAR....



THE SPECTACLED MAGICIAN, EVIDENTLY PLEASED WITH HIS VISITOR, OFFERS THE VIAL PROUDLY AND MOTIONS FOR NORGE TO DRINK FROM IT... NORGE HAS DOUBTS....



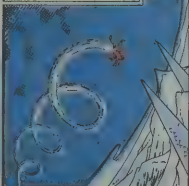
THE SPECTACLED CHAP, FROM A SAFE PERCH, POURS THE FIZZLING LIQUID ON THE SHIP... THE AMAZEMENT OF THE TWO INSIDE, THE ICE INSTANTLY MELTS



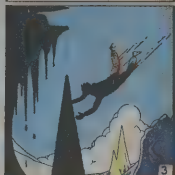
...BUT HE CANNOT OFFEND A FRIEND IN NEED, SO HE UNHESITATINGLY SETS THE VIAL TO HIS LIPS AND DRAINS IT OF ITS EFFERVESCENT CONTENTS...



WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE, DOING A TRIPLE SOMERSAULT HIGH OVER THE PEAKS OF PLUTO!



CONVULSIVELY, HE GRIPS AN ICY PINNACLE AND HANGS ON... ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF STUCK FAST, FROZEN TO HIS PERCH...



NORGE BEGINS TO THINK ABOUT GETTING DOWN, BUT LOOKING PAST THE PLUTO PEOPLE HE CHANGES HIS MIND IN A HURRY...



A HUGE FURRY MOUNTAIN OF A CREATURE APPEARS, HEAD-ING FOR NORGE...



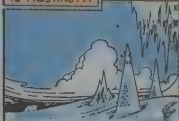
SHAKEN OUT OF THEIR PLACID POSE, THE GRINNING PLUTOCRATS TURN ABOUT AND STAGGER BACK, PARALYZED...



SCREAMING IN PANIC, THEY DASH MADLY TO THEIR ICE HOUSES, THE MOUNTAINOUS BEASTS CHARGE CLOSE BEHIND THEM...



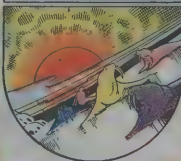
BUT THEY RUN ALL THE FASTER FROM THE SEBARS, DASH INTO THEIR ICEBERG RESIDENCES AND SLAM THEIR DOOR... NORGE YELLS TO FROSTING...



FROSTING TAKES ONE LOOK AT THE SEBARS AND WITH A RUNNING JUMP GOES WEST...



IN BREATH-TAKING NUMBERS THE SEBARS GATHER, AND ADVANCE AS ONE TOWARD NORGE...



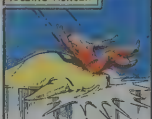
THE SEBARS CROWD AROUND HIS ICEBERG. SET THEIR TUSKS TO IT AND ROCK IT, UNTIL HE LOSES HIS DESPAIRING GRIP...



HE SLIDES HEAD FIRST DOWN THE ICY SIDES...



AND LANDS ON THE BIG SNOUT OF A SEBAR... GRUNTING, THE SEBAR JERKS HIS HEAD, TOSSING NORGE...



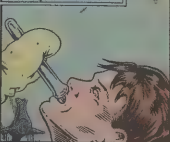
TO ANOTHER SEBAR



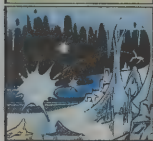
ALL THE SEBARS CATCH ON TO THE GAME. NORGE'S JUGGLED FROM NOSE TO NOSE.



HE DESPERATELY UNCORKS THE VIAL IN MIDAIR AND POURS FOAMING LIQUID BETWEEN HIS CHATTERING TEETH...



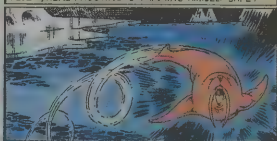
FLIPPING AND FLOPPING, HE LANDS A CITY BLOCK AWAY ON AN ICY HOUSETOP.....



BUT UNHAPPILY A TRICKLE OF THE LIQUID MOISTENS A SEBAR'S LIPS...



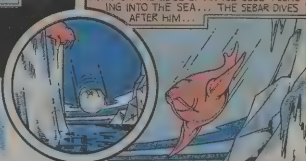
MISTER IVORY HANDLEBARS OUTFLIPS NORGE, FLAPPING THROUGH THE AIR. HE FLOPS TOWARD THE VERY FLOE WHERE FROSTING IS THINKING HIMSELF SAFE.



IT'S AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT FOR FROSTING, AND WITH A SUDDEN DECISION, LEAVES IN UTMOST HASTE...



THE SEBAR GAINS! FROSTING FAINTS DEAD AWAY ON THE EDGE OF AN ICE CUBE PLUNGING INTO THE SEA... THE SEBAR DIVES AFTER HIM...



NORGE GROANS AND THEN SEES THE SEBAR'S SWIMMING TOWARD SHORE, HOLDING FROTHING GENTLY UNDER HIS IVORIES!



WITH A REVIVED AND RELIEVED FROTHING IN HIS FRONT SEAT, NORGE POURS THE LIQUID ON THEIR SHIP...



AND WHOOSH!... AWAY THEY GO, OVER PLUTO'S ICY WONDERS WHILE SADDENED PLUTOCRATS AND SEBAR'S WAVE FAREWELL.



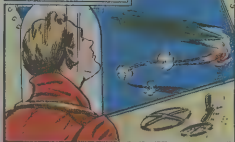
NORGE BENSON RETURNS AGAIN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS! 5

The STAR PIRATE

BY
LEONARDO
VINCI

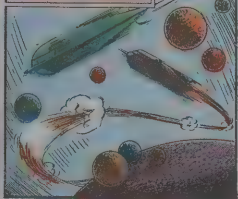


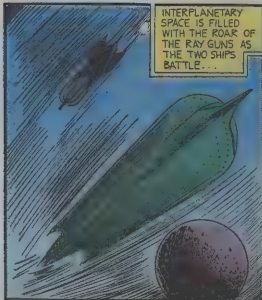
FROM HIS HIDING PLACE IN SATURN'S RING, AN ASTEROID BELT, THE STAR PIRATE IS AWARE OF THE APPROACH OF A HUGE ARMED FREIGHTER.



THE INTER-PLANETARY SMUGGLERS! AND IN OUR OWN BACK YARD! LET 'EM HAVE IT!

THE PIRATE'S BLACK SPACE SHIP, "REVENGE" ROCKETS TO THE ATTACK...





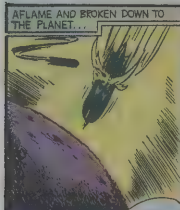
INTERPLANETARY SPACE IS FILLED WITH THE ROAR OF THE RAY GUNS AS THE TWO SHIPS BATTLE...



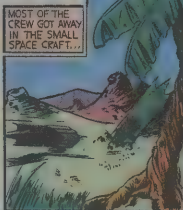
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, TRODY... HOLD ON TIGHT!



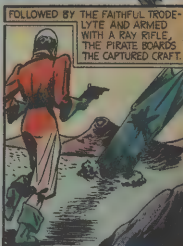
THE DISINTEGRATING RAYS SMASH INTO THE SMUGGLERS' SHIP SENDING IT...



AFLAME AND BROKEN DOWN TO THE PLANET...



MOST OF THE CREW GOT AWAY IN THE SMALL SPACE CRAFT...



FOLLOWED BY THE FAITHFUL TRODE-LYTE AND ARMED WITH A RAY RIFLE, THE PIRATE BOARDS THE CAPTURED CRAFT.



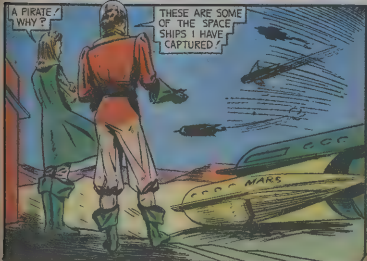
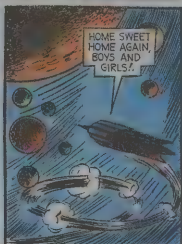
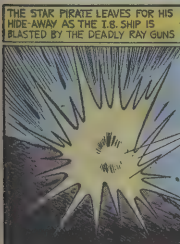
HE FINDS LITTLE CARGO, BUT TAKES ONE PRISONER...

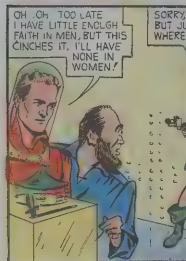
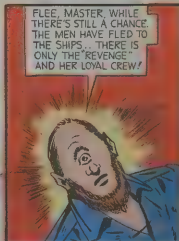
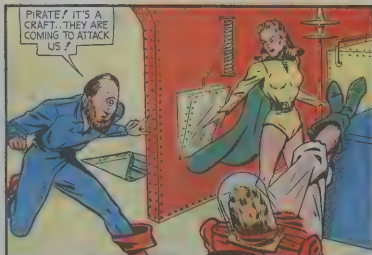


AND WHEN THE BULGER IS LIFTED AWAY THE MEN GASP IN AMAZEMENT!



I WAS A PASSENGER ON MY WAY TO MERCURY TO JOIN MY FATHER...

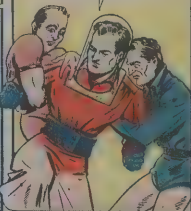




THE GIANT RAYS OF THE SPACE SHIPS ARE ALREADY BLASTING THE WALLS, BUT THE PIRATE PICKS UP HIS LOYAL SERVANT AND CARRIES HIM TO THE "REVENGE"



LET ME GO! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE GIRL BEFORE...



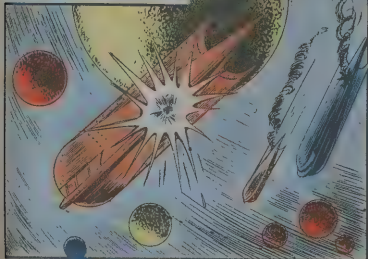
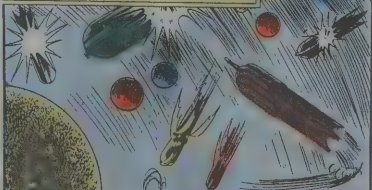
BUT THE GIRL IS PAST SAVING... A RAY SWEEPS THE BUILDING WITH A DIRECT HIT AND THE PIRATE'S HIDDEN HIDE-AWAY IS PULVERIZED!...



O.K. THEY ASKED FOR IT... NOW I'LL GIVE THEM SOME ACTION!



AT THE HELM OF HIS BLACK SHIP, WITH ROCKET JETS WIDE OPEN AND THE RAY CANNON GOING FULL BLAST, HE SHOOTS INTO THE MIDDLE OF THEM... A RUNNING FIGHT, AND THE STAR PIRATE ESCAPES AGAIN...

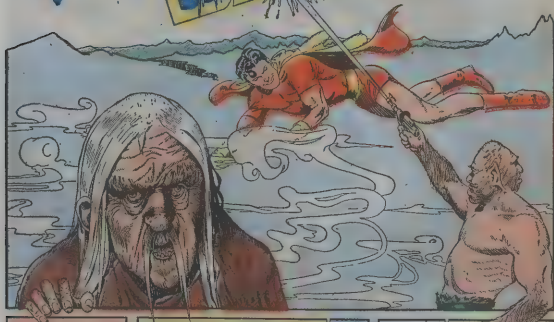


THIS FEATURE WILL APPEAR AGAIN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

PLANET COMICS

FLINT BAKER

By
AL SCHMIDT



AMAZING STORIES OF
A LOST PARTY OF
EARTHMEN ON A FAR-
OFF STAR COME TO
MIMI'S EDITOR....

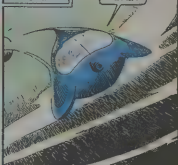
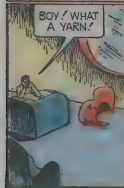
HE SENDS MIMI AND FLINT BAKER
TO VERIFY THE RUMORS...

IF IT'S TRUE, IT REVISES
ALL OUR SPACE HISTORIES

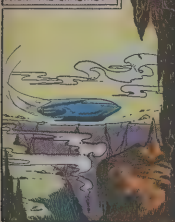
FLINT AND
MIMI FIND
THE PLANET
A WASTE-
LAND RENT
BY GREAT
FISSURES..

GOLLY! DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
THERE'S MUCH
HERE!

BOY! WHAT
A YARN!



AN ODORLESS, ODDLY
COLORED GAS OZZES
FROM THE CHASMS.



FLINT AND MIMI LAND ON
A BARE ROCKY PLAIN...



NOTHING
HERE, LET'S
TRY THAT
RIDGE THERE

OKAY, MIMI,
RIDE AWHILE.

THEY FIND A NARROW HIGHWAY,
AND FOLLOW IT CAUTIOUSLY...



BUT HALF WAY TO THE PEAKS,
MIMI IS OVERCOME BY FUMES...



FLINT?!
I CAN'T

FLINT CARRIES HER TO THE FOOT
OF THE ROCKY EMINENCE.....



NOT SO GOOD! SHE'S
UNCONSCIOUS!

SOON HE HIMSELF SUCCUMBS
AND SINKS TO THE GROUND JUST
AS STRANGE JANUS-LIKE MEN
APPEAR.



IT'S AH H
GOT ME,
TOO!

THE TWO-FACED
MEN PICK UP
FLINT AND MIMI.



SUDDENLY, THE MAN CARRYING
MIMI FEELS HIS NEIGHBOR AND
FLEES WITH THE GIRL...



CATCH HIM!
CATCH HIM!

FLINT, RECOVERING, MAKES A FEEBLE EFFORT TO FOLLOW



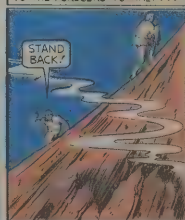
THE KIDNAPER...NIMBLE AS A GOAT, SCALES THE ROCKY CLIFF



FLINT STRUGGLES TO ESCAPE...



SUDDENLY THE LEADER CALLS TO THE PURSUERS TO HALT...



RAISING A PIPE-LIKE DEVICE, HE AIMS AT THE KIDNAPER....



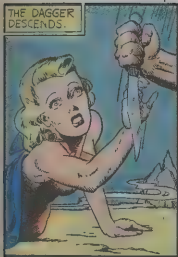
A FREEZING RAY PARALYZES HIM AND HE FALLS INERT...



THE LEADER DASHES UP AND POISES A DAGGER FOR THE KILL...



THE DAGGER
DESCENDS..



BUT MIMI DIVERTS
THE DEADLY BLOW..



THE KIDNAPER'S EYES PLEDGE
ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO MIMI..



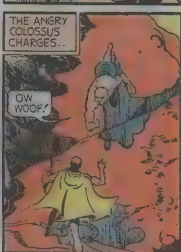
MEANTIME FLINT IS FIGHTING
DESPERATELY TO REACH MIMI..



BREAKING FREE, HE LANDS A
PUNCH ON THE GIANT'S CHIN,
HOPING TO ROUSE HIS IRE....



THE ANGRY
COLOSSUS
CHARGES..



FLINT DUCKS,
AND HIS FOE
TOPPLES
OVER THE
CLIFF



FLINT RUNS AND DODGES
THE FIRST TWO ATTACKERS..



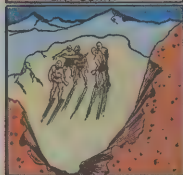
BUT IS FINALLY OVERCOME



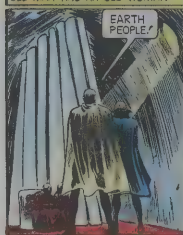
ONE GIANT
POISES FLINT
OVER THE
CLIFF
EDGE



COWED, THEY SET
FLINT DOWN.



FLINT AND MIMI NOW SEE AN
OLD MAN AND AN OLD WOMAN.



WHEN THE LEADER REAPPEARS



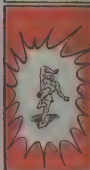
SOON FLINT
AND MIMI
ARE TAKEN
INTO A DARK
CAVE...



A VOICE SPEAKS HARSHLY....



SUDDENLY A
LIGHT FLASHES
AND THE
KIDNAPER FALLS
TO THE FLOOR.
BLIND



YES, WE ARE OF YOUR
STOCK. WE REGRET
THE RECEPTION GIVEN
YOU.



SO THE STORY WAS
TRUE! NOW WE
MUST RETURN AND
REPORT.



THERE IS NO NEED TO TELL YOU THE STORY. FOR YOU'LL NEVER RETURN TO EARTH. THE TWO-FACED ONES WILL WRECK YOUR SHIP TOMORROW NIGHT.



WI. WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW? ... SAY, ARE YOU PUTTING THEM UP TO...



AS IF AT A HIDDEN SIGNAL, THE JANUS-LIKE MEN COME DASHING IN....



BINDING THE TWO, THEY TAKE THEM TO A GLOOMY DUNGEON...



WE'RE BURIED ALIVE THIS TIME, FLINT!

CHEER UP! WE'LL GET A BREAK!



A FAINT SOUND ROUSES FLINT...



MIMI!... HEAR THAT TAPPING?

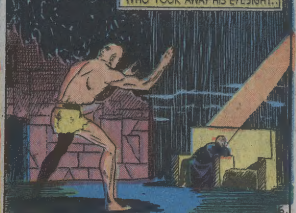
QUICK, EARTH PEOPLE! I WILL SET YOU FREE. BE QUIET... THE TWO-FACES WOULD KILL YOU!



MEANWHILE, GUALA, THE BLIND ONE RISES.....



HE HEARS A FAINT SNORE, AND GROPE TOWARD IT, KNOWING IT'S THE OLD MAN WHO TOOK AWAY HIS EYESIGHT..



VENGEFULLY, HE FEELS FOR THE SEAMED THROAT.



THE OLD EARTHMAN WILL NEVER AWAKE.



GUALA LEAVES WITH THE COVETED TUBE WHICH WIELDS THE POWER OF BLINDNESS OR LIGHT FOR THE TWO-FACED PEOPLE



MEANWHILE, FLINT, MIMI AND THE OLD WOMAN, FLEEING ON A PATH, SEE PEBBLES FALL....



FLINT SPOTS THE TWO-FACED MEN ABOVE WITH WEAPONS POISED.



FLINT TUGS MIMI TO SAFETY, BUT THE OLD WOMAN IS HIT...



WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE IN A MILLION!



THEN INTO SIGHT COMES GUALA WITH THE FEARED LIGHT-GUN.



LET THE GIRL GO, OR I FIRE!



HE PAYS HIS DEBT TO MIMI, THE JANUS-LIKE MEN FLEE IN FEAR...

HEADING FOR EARTH AGAIN.. WITHOUT THE STORY, MIMI.

WE GOT ENOUGH OF IT!



THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS WILL HAVE ANOTHER ADVENTUROUS STORY WITH FLINT BAKER AND MIMI



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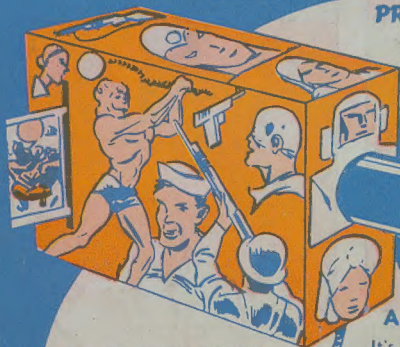


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